

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0040] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] In addition, PE routers 38A and 38B communicate utilizing an exterior routing protocol, such as Exterior BGP (EBGP). Using EBGP, PE routers 38A and 38B exchange L2 service information, e.g., VPLS service information 48. VPLS service information 48, as described above, may, for example, include L2 site data, such as site-id's of remote sites, VPN domains to which these sites belong, and any information required to forward traffic to these sites or other L2 information. In this manner, a mechanism is established for sharing L2 information between numerous remote L2 networks, e. g., customer networks 40A and 40B, regardless of the level of network abstraction.

Please replace paragraph [0043] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] In this example, router 50 also includes L2 state data 62 that generally represents the state data necessary to provide services for an L2 network. L2 state data 62 may, for example, specify MAC addresses for the L2 networks. MAC ~~Mae~~ addresses, for example, may ~~my~~ be learned by MAC flooding and learning procedures during L2 communication.

Please replace paragraph [0048] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] The architecture of router 50 illustrated in FIG. 5 is for exemplary purposes only. The invention is not limited to this architecture. In other embodiments, router 50 may be configured in a variety of ways. In one embodiment, for example, control unit 58 and its corresponding functionality may be distributed within IFCs 52. In another embodiment, control unit 58 may include a routing engine that performs route resolution and maintains a routing information base

(RIB), and a forwarding engine that performs packet forwarding based on a forwarding information base (FIB). In some embodiments, control unit 58 may include one or more processors which execute software instructions. In that case, the various software modules of control unit 58, such as protocols 60, may comprise executable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium.